

## January Meeting

**Friday, January 18**

**7:30 pm**

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA*

### Meeting Program

Brian Klostermann from *Your Safety Place* will discuss personal earthquake preparedness.

### V.E. Testing

*6:00-7:00 PM, January 18 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.*

## Contents

President's QRM	1
Meeting Minutes/ Holiday Party Report	2
W6VAR Ham Story	3
Interference Monitoring	4
Board Meeting Minutes	4

## President's QRM

by Marty Heyman, W6MDH



Well, this is the last President's QRM for me for a while. We elected a great team of volunteers

to take over for next year and the club is in fabulous shape for them to step in and keep up the momentum. It has been a great deal of fun these last two years and Jordan and I thank all the many who helped in small and large ways. In particular, we owe a great deal to the other officers and all the members of the Board. The other volunteers for Membership, the *Carrier*, our webpage, and the entire Pacifcon crew make this one of the most active and happening clubs in the country.

Enough of the goodbyes. As my next step, I've committed to run yet another Technician Class license training session Tuesday nights in Orinda for the folks in Lamorinda. Chuck Graham, KI6DCD, and Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, are running a parallel class at the Salvation Army will be in Concord on Wednesdays. Both classes start the second week of January (the 8th and 9th) and run six weeks. That means they end just before

the February MDARC meeting and its VE session. The Orinda session is already approaching 20 students (that's a lot) and I expect the Concord session will fill out as well. We had a great success with the sessions last year and I hope we do as well this time. It's driven membership up and raised awareness in the community. Those are two good things.

There is lots of good news in the various minutes of club meetings but I must comment on how terrific our relationship has become with the team running the new East Bay Hills site. John Larue, site owner, has deputized Tom Naso, N6MVT, as his Ham Radio site guy. The East Bay Hills site has been hosting one of the CARLA system's repeaters and will soon be hosting our 2m voter. MDARC has contributed significant volunteer effort to bring the site back on line. There was much to do before it was ready to start deploying radios again and our efforts have made a real difference. This new facility is roomy and has plenty of power and tower space so it is likely to become another amateur radio hub location, particularly because the site team is so professional but easy to work with.

With that, Jordan and I step off stage and cheer as Jason, Dave, and the rest of the team step in!

## Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available. All material must be submitted to the editor by the last day of the month prior to publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to [carrier@mdarc.org](mailto:carrier@mdarc.org) or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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#### W6CX Repeaters

147.060/+ (100 PL)  
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441.325/+ (100 PL)  
ATV: In 1289.25 Out 427.25, 1241.25  
APRS: 144.39  
TCP/IP: 145.71

## MDARC Holiday Party

December 21, 2007

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

by Tom Deeble, KA6SIP



On the night of our regular December meeting, MDARC held its annual holiday dinner/party. It looked like a good time was had by all—good food and good company. About 50 people were in attendance. Thank you for your support of the club efforts! The evening started with appetizers, and then moved to the dinner tables for a full holiday treat. There was salad & bread, turkey & stuffing, and mashed potatoes & gravy. All this was followed by pumpkin pie. I know my wife & I were really full when we left.

There was a short meeting after the dinner—the last official duty of our outgoing president, Marty Heyman, W6MDH. Don Anthony, N6SIA, presented Marty with a box reportedly

containing a gavel, but we never got to see it. Dick Brown, KT6X, presented a check for \$12,500 to MDARC, the proceeds of a very successful PACIFICON convention. Bob Vallio, W6RGG, ARRL Pacific Division Director, and Ti-Michelle Connelly, NJ6T, outgoing ARRL East Bay section manager also gave short talks. A raffle was held for an ARRL repeater book, donated by Bob Vallio. I was the lucky recipient! Thanks Bob!

So, for those of you not there – you missed a great party! A big thank you to Marty for organizing the dinner, and also for leading MDARC these past two years.

## Why I Became a Ham

by Jim Konkhe, W6VAR

When Jeremiah (K6BQ) asked me to write an article about why I became a ham, I thought it would be pretty easy. What was easy is what finally drove me to get my license. Why I'm a Ham is much more complex.

My introduction to amateur radio came at an early age working with my grandfather, W6VAR. There was a room in the basement where my grandparents kept toys for us and that is where we played. The neatest toy in the room was Grandpa's...and we only touched it when he was with us. The door to the room had a small sign that simply read "Real Radios Glow in the Dark."

Every Wednesday at 5 PM and Sundays at 9 AM, Grandpa's toy would come to life and we could hear all of Donald Duck's relatives, including my aunt and uncle in Clearlake. Grandpa's fingers seldom left the VFO as he seemed to endlessly make minor adjustments to accommodate drift and the normal conversation was regularly sprinkled with phrases like: "W6BV this is W6VAR over."

Grandpa's stories of his youth were always fascinating and included: "rolling his own" capacitors and "acquiring" microphone elements out of telephones. In those days, radios were made from all sorts of odds and ends. I've been told when my father was a boy, he would invite his friends over to be entertained by my grandfather – who would inevitably receive a painful shock as he worked on live equipment while standing on a stack of newspapers for insulation. Radio was truly a hobby for the dabbler and the experimenter. While I enjoyed technical things and I studied for my license as a youth, I never seemed to

complete my studies and ended up pursuing other interests, however, the fascination with radio and electronics never waned.

When my grandfather passed away, I regretted not obtaining my license and using it as a means to help keep my grandfather active in his interest. When it came time to sell his house, my father offered me his equipment. At the time, I figured I would never get my license since my CC&R's won't let me put up antennas and I would never find the time to study. We ended up donating most of his equipment to a club that helps introduce the hobby to youth. The amateur that my father donated the equipment to suggested that I should get my Tech license so I could get my grandfather's call sign through the vanity program.

I didn't think too much about it, since I never really considered simply getting a Tech license, but then I found out that his call sign would go back to the pool after a period of time. About the same time, I completed closing a division of a company and needed to immerse myself in something for a while, so I used some of my transition time to study for the exam so I could keep my grandfather's call sign alive. I figured I could dabble a bit on 2 meters and that some form of radio capability would be good given my pursuit of outdoor activities and the potential need for emergency communications in a natural disaster.

Once I started studying, I remembered a lot more than I thought. I passed my Technician exam and was asked if I would like to sit for the General course. Not having studied for this, I assumed I couldn't pass...but my recollection of theory from years ago stuck with me and I passed my General as well.

While studying for the exams, I learned a lot more about the diversity of the hobby and my interest in

participating in amateur radio grew rapidly. Instead of dismissing amateur radio due to my CC&R's, I found myself wanting to figure out technically feasible ways to work within my restrictions.

The natural solution was more knowledge. Being a self learner, I started buying books (about 18 inches worth) and reading voraciously. Within a month, I passed my extra exam and had many conversations with others on the local repeaters to get ideas on working HF radio with restrictions.

Like many, I still recall my very first amateur contact. It was with Jeremiah, K6BQ, on the MDARC repeater. Since then, I have met a great many fellow amateurs that have grown my knowledge tremendously and have enabled me to pursue the hobby without agitating my neighbors. In the process, I've developed an additional group of friends who meet most days in the virtual world of radio.

I'm back into a commute now and another aspect of the hobby has come to life. The morning and evening commutes that used to seem endless now fly by as I engage in interesting conversations with my friends on radio. I've even thrown a modest antenna on the car that allows me to pursue 20 meters at lunch since my evening time is spent on family obligations.

Why did I become an amateur radio operator? I thought I was doing something to keep a memory alive, but it turns out, radio is a hobby that will keep my mind alive many years to come with constant learning, solving technical challenges, building projects, community service, emergency communications, relieving commute boredom, and most importantly, a great way to help others grow while building new friendships.

...DE W6VAR



## MDARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2007

Fuddruckers, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Marty Heyman.

A quorum was present, consisting of: Marty Heyman, W6MDH; Jason Legate, W6SN, Sheldon Lawrence; Dave Gordon, N6SWE; Don Anthony, N6SIA; Trevor Hall, WA6JAU. Director Robert Green, K6GD, arrived during the meeting.

Also present were Iain MacDonnell, K6IAM, and Herbert Cole, KI6ATB.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not approved because they have not been published in the *Carrier* for review.

### Treasurer's Report

127 renewals for 2008 have been processed. The checking account balance is \$6,683.00, and the CDs total \$43,139.00.

A letter was read from Robert Lausten, W6ERA.

### Tech Committee

Membership card modifications were presented by Iain MacDonnell, K6IAM, to make room for more useful information and improve appearance of card.

Intermod and repeater interference was discussed. An article will be published in the *Carrier* for members to listen in reverse for interfering transmissions. Hopefully call signs will be copied. Direction-finding assistance will be requested to find jammers and constant DTMF codes with no ID.

New disk approved for hilltop computer.

Echolink IRLP operating procedure will be written will be written by Herbert Cole, KI6ATB.

Certified Climbers requirements to be requested from American Tower.

1.2Ghz antenna replacement needed.

Spectrum analyzer purchase to be presented to board in January with proposed price.

Control Op paging link to be installed on MDARC website.

Voter project working continuing on East Bay hill site.

### Emergency Coordinator

Races has requested that a 6 meter repeater be placed on Mt. Diablo to increase frequency range with the reduction in 440 power. There will be further discussion in future meetings.

### Pacificon

No final results from Pacificon have been presented to the board.

### Honorary Membership Requests

Honorary memberships were presented to the board and approved, however further discussion at future meeting may be necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

*Minutes recorded by  
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU*

## Interference Monitoring

by Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

As you may have noticed we have been experiencing a lot of interference and jamming on the 2 meter repeater. We believe the interference is on a frequency of 147.655 Mhz. and also includes a call sign periodically.

We have also been receiving a lot of touch tone transmissions with no ID. It would help the tech committee if you listen to the repeater input frequency of 147.66 Mhz and report the time and location where the transmissions are received. Also record any call signs that are received.

Please file your reports with Trevor Hall at (925) 876-5387.

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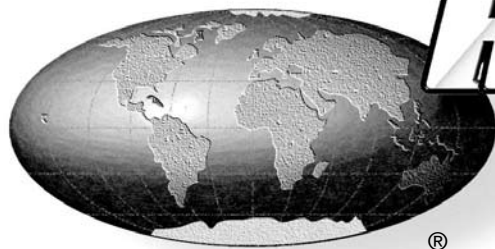
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**Thursday 7:30 pm**

MDARC Club Net

**Thursday 8:00 pm**

General ATV Net

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## Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

**Thursday, 7:00 pm**

*Central County* 145.680 Simplex  
Jim Brunk, N6BHX

*East County* 146.535 Simplex  
Drew Hanson, KD6GLY

*South County* 146.355/+ (100 PL)  
Ed Ritchie, K6SFD

*West County* 145.110/-  
Steve Adams, KF6WNH

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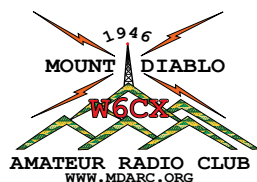
## January Events

*January 7*                      7:00 pm                      **MDARC Board Meeting**  
*Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek*

*January 18*                      7:30 pm                      **MDARC Monthly Meeting**  
*Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette*

*January 31*    **February Carrier Deadline**

*February 4*                      7:00 pm                      **MDARC Board Meeting**  
*Fuddrucker's, 1940 N. Main St., Walnut Creek*



## The Carrier

*Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club*

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

[www.mdarc.org](http://www.mdarc.org)



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***Next Meeting—January 18—Earthquake preparedness***

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